

NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

TITLE 272-NEBRASKA STATE PATROL

LAST ISSUE DATE: October 3, 1989

Chapter 8 - USE OF EXPLOSIVES

001 Use: General

001.01 The handling of explosives shall be performed under the direction of a person holding a valid and subsisting permit from the Nebraska State Patrol to use explosives.

001.02 It is the responsibility of the owner of explosives or the person in possession of a storage permit or a business enterprise permit or a user's permit to control the explosives and the use thereof. The owner of explosives or the one storing explosives under the authority of a storage permit or a person holding a user's permit or a business enterprise purchase permit must control his or her explosives by keeping an accurate and continuing inventory of all explosives. The record of this inventory must be kept on file a minimum of five years. It is the responsibility of all owners of explosives or employers of agents, employees, or subcontractors using explosives, or all who store explosives, to employ people only of good judgement, that know how to handle explosives safely. It is the responsibility of the person in the immediate control of explosives or the owner or user of explosives to take such steps as necessary to insure that such explosives are not finding their way into the hands of unauthorized persons. No person shall handle explosives while under the influence of intoxicating liquors, narcotics, or marijuana.

001.03 While explosives are being handled or used, smoking shall not be permitted and no one near the explosives shall possess open lights or other fire or flame, except devices for lighting safety fuse.

001.04 Any wood, paper, or other materials employed in packing explosives that contains or is contaminated with explosive material shall not be burned in a stove, fireplace, or other confined space, or be used for any purpose. Such materials shall be destroyed by burning at an isolated location out of doors, and no person shall be nearer than 100 feet after burning has started.

001.04A Such burning may necessitate separate burning permits under Title 129, Chapter 15, Nebraska Air Pollution Control, Rules and Regulations, from the

Department of Environmental Control, Lincoln, Nebraska and/or...

001.04B ...an open burning permit from the fire chief of the local fire department having jurisdiction in the area of the burn. Nebraska Statute 81-520.01.

001.05 Only electric blasting caps, detonating cord systems, shock tube systems or gas initiating systems shall be used to initiate blasts in congested districts, on highways, or adjacent to highways open to traffic. In no such instance shall initiation by cap and fuse be permitted.

001.06 When blasting is done in congested areas or in close proximity to a structure, railway, or highway or any other installation that may be damaged, the blast shall be covered before firing with a mat so constructed that it is capable of preventing fragments from being thrown. When such blasting is being carried out near a highway, the operator may, in lieu of using a mat, and with the permission of local authorities, block the roads adjacent to the firing area while such firing is in progress.

001.07 The person in control of a blasting operation must keep an accurate blasting record for each blast. The blasting record shall record the job location, date, time of blast, weather conditions, type of blast, type of materials blasted, type and size cartridge of explosives used, number of holes, diameter of holes, hole depth, and total quantity of explosives fired instantaneously or by a delay interval. These records must be kept a minimum of five years.

001.08 Persons authorized to prepare explosives charges or conduct blasting operations shall use every reasonable precaution, including but not limited to warning signals, flags, barricades, or woven wire mats to insure the safety of the general public and workmen.

001.09 Blasting operations, except by special permission of the Nebraska State Patrol, shall be conducted only during the daylight hours.

001.10 Whenever blasting is being conducted in the vicinity of gas, electric, water, fire alarm, telephone, telegraph and steam utilities, the owner, "User", or employer shall notify the appropriate representatives of such utilities, at least 24 hours in advance of blasting, specifying the locations and intended time of such blasting. Verbal notice shall be confirmed with written notice. In an emergency, this time limit may be waived by the Nebraska State Patrol.

001.11 Due precautions shall be taken to prevent accidental discharge of electric blasting caps from current induced by radar, radio transmitters, lightning, adjacent power lines, dust storms, or other sources of extraneous electricity. These precautions shall include:

001.11A The suspension of all blasting operations and removal of persons from the blasting area during the approach and progress of an electrical storm.

001.11B The posting of signs warning against the use of mobile radio transmitters on all roads within 350 feet of the blasting operations.

001.11C User, owner, or employer shall follow the requirements Title 272, Appendix I, II and Table IV pertaining to blasting in the vicinity of radio transmitters or power lines.

001.12 Explosives or blasting equipment that are obviously deteriorated or damaged shall not be used.

001.13 No explosives shall be abandoned.

002 Use: Loading of Explosives in Blast Holes.

002.01 All drill holes shall be sufficiently large to admit freely the insertion of the cartridges of explosives.

002.02 Tamping shall be done only with an approved non-sparking rods without exposed metal parts. Nonsparking metal connectors may be used for jointed poles. Violent tamping shall be avoided.

002.03 No holes shall be loaded except those to be fired in the next round of blasting. Seismographic operations shall follow this procedure wherever possible for maximum safety, but where practicality will not permit, they are exempted from the provisions of this sub-section.

002.04 Drilling shall not be started until all remaining butts of old holes are examined with a wooden or approved non-sparking rod for unexploded charges, and if any are found they shall be refired or washed out by or under the direction of a competent and experienced person before work proceeds.

002.05 No person shall be allowed to deepen drill holes which have contained explosives.

002.06 After loading for a blast is completed, all excess blasting caps or electric blasting caps

and other explosives shall immediately be returned to their separate storage magazines.

003 Use: Initiation of Explosive Charges

003.01 When fuse is used, the blasting cap shall be securely attached to the safety fuse, with a standard type cap crimper. All primers shall be assembled at least 50 feet from any magazine.

003.02 Primers shall be made up only as required for each round of blasting.

003.03 No blasting cap shall be inserted in the explosives without first making a hole in the cartridge for the cap with an approved punch of proper size or with a standard cap crimper.

003.04 Explosives shall not be extracted from a hole that has once been charged or has misfired unless it is impossible to detonate the unexploded charge by the insertion of a fresh additional primer. This work shall be done by or under the supervision of a competent and experienced person.

003.05 If there are any misfires while using the cap and fuse, all persons shall remain away from the charge for a least 30 minutes. If electric blasting caps are used and a misfire occurs, this waiting period may be reduced to 15 minutes. Misfires shall be handled under the direction of the person in charge of the blasting and all wires shall be carefully traced and a search made for unexploded charges. Shock tube and miniaturized detonating cord initiating systems shall wait 15 minutes for misfires.

003.06 Blasters, when testing circuits to charged holes, shall use only blasting galvanometers or other instruments specially designed for this purpose.

003.07 Only the person making leading wire connections in electrical firing shall fire the shot. All connections shall be made from bore hole back to the source of firing current, and the leading wires shall remain shorted and not be connected to the blasting machine or other source of current until the charge is to be fired. Only blasting machines or initiators that meet the explosive manufacturers recommendations and approval should be used as a source of electric current for initiating electrically fired charges of explosives.

003.08 Before a blast is fired, a loud warning signal shall be given by the person in charge who has made certain that all surplus explosives are in a safe place, all persons and vehicles are at a safe distance or under sufficient cover, and that an adequate warning has been given.

004 Every holder of any storage, purchase, or use permit required under §28-1213 to §28-1239 shall notify the fire protection district in which any explosive is being used or stored, and the holder shall keep a written record describing the time the notice was given, office in the district to which the notice was given and name of the person in the district notified. This notification shall be made for existing use or storage sites and newly established sites, including job sites.

004 Conflicts. Nothing contained in these Rules and Regulations shall be in conflict with provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, or the Espionage and Sabotage Act of 1954 as amended.

Statutory Authority: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§28-1213 to 28-1239 .

Legal Citation: Title 272, Ch. 8, Nebraska State Patrol.